

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3-9, and cancel claims 2 and 10 as follows.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A choke with integral wad stopper for use with an existing shotgun, comprising:

a hollow tubular member ~~eylinder~~ having a coupling at one end for concentrically securing it said tubular member to a ~~muzzle end of said~~ shotgun, said tubular member ~~eylinder~~ being defined by an internal channel having a stepwise taper ~~an increasingly smaller average internal diameter~~ running away from the coupling end to constrict shotgun pellets passing there through;

said stepwise taper being further defined by a plurality of raised annular ~~projections~~ step-projections spaced evenly along at least two-thirds a length of said ~~tapered~~ channel to retard and separate wadding from behind said shotgun pellets while passing through said tubular member ~~eylinder~~.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of raised annular step-projections comprises a sharp edge disposed toward said coupling end of said tubular member ~~eylinder~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of raised annular step-projections comprises a rounded edge disposed toward said coupling end of said tubular member ~~eylinder~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein each internal step-projection along said ~~eylinder~~ defines a smaller internal diameter within said channel ~~eylinder~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 5, further comprising a ramp transition between successive internal step-projections along said channel ~~eylinder~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The choke according to claim 1, wherein said coupling further comprises an external series of screw threads on said hollow tubular member for screw-insertion to the ~~muzzle end of~~ said existing shotgun.

8. (Currently Amended) The choke according to claim 9, further comprising a textured area along an outer surface of said tubular member ~~eylinder~~ to improve gripping while screwing it said tubular member into the ~~muzzle end of~~ said existing shotgun.

9. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said raised annular step-projections further comprise a ramp transition to a next successive step-projection, thereby defining a constricting stepwise taper running away from said coupling end of the tubular member ~~eylinder~~.

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10.(Canceled)